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No. 62

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 6, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VITO FOSSELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Joseph V. Brennan, St. Linus Church, Norwalk, California, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, in many and varied ways You have been compared to a shepherd who carefully watches over his flock. You shepherd us by example, Lord, seeking out those who are lost and protecting the flock with Your very life. So lead us and guide us this day to pastures of truth, goodness, and justice. Guide our feet into the way of peace.

Bless these chosen ones in this House. Give them wisdom and the spirit of courage and of right judgment. Bless the work of their hearts and hands and keep our beautiful country always in Your loving and tender arms. We ask all of this with confidence in Your love for You live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MATHESON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a joint resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 34. Joint resolution designating May 29, 2004, on the occasion of the dedication of the National World War II Memorial, as Remembrance of World War II Veterans Day.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 637, title VI of Public Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as member of the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission:

Dr. Marty LaVor of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 100-175, as amended by Public Laws 102-375, 103-171, and 106-501, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, after consultation with the members of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on Aging, appoints the following individuals as members of the Policy Committee to the White House Conference on Aging—the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY); and

the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG).

The message also announced that in accordance with sections 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amend-

ed, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly during the Second Session of One Hundred Eighth Congress—

Senator ERNEST F. HOLLINGS of South Carolina; and

Senator ZELL MILLER of Georgia.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276h-276K of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) a member of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group conference during the Second Session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches per side.

WELCOMING REVEREND JOSEPH V. BRENNAN

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage and recognize our guest chaplain today, a gentleman who has been our pastor in our church for the last 12 years.

He was born in the San Fernando Valley in California on March 20, 1954, the ninth out of 10 children to Roger and Helen Brennan of Van Nuys. He was born again through Sacrament of Baptism on April 18, 1954, celebrating this year 50 years as a Catholic.

This June 21 he will be celebrating his 24 years as a priest. He graduated from St. John's Seminary College in 1976. He was ordained as a priest from

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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St. John's Seminary Theologate in 1980 and is a priest in good standing with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He served with Cardinal Roger Mahony at the old Cathedral Church of St. Vibiana for 5 years.

His current assignment, we are sorry to see him go because he has brought our parish together and is adored by all of the children of the school and those that go to our church, will be assigned as pastor of Holy Trinity Church in San Pedro on July 1. We are very happy he was able to spend some time with us today and offer the blessings to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for allowing Father Brennan to give the morning prayer, and I thank Father Brennan for the ability to be here and our resident chaplain for allowing him to be here.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1078

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1078.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning the news indicates that some of our Democrats have politicized the war in Iraq. It is a war against terrorism. We have got to support our troops. Our Secretary of Defense is doing a super job.

The question is, are we here in the United States of America as citizens going to support them to the hilt? When I was in Vietnam as a POW, we were scared to death that the United States was going to turn on us, politicize it and end it without getting us out.

They did get us out of Vietnam, but they did not get all of our people out of Cambodia and Laos, and it was because of the peaceniks who did not believe we could win.

We have to support our troops. Our freedom, our Nation, our liberty depend on it. God bless the United States.

A PRESCRIPTION FOR CONFUSION

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to discuss the extreme frustration that our senior citizens are experiencing in applying for this Medicare discount card.

This card was created from a flawed Medicare prescription bill, so it is no

surprise that our seniors are having problems utilizing it.

The Houston Chronicle recently published an article about how confusing this discount card is for seniors. The article found the discount card more confusing than preparing your income taxes or dealing with an insurance company regarding a hospital bill.

With great fanfare on Friday, Medicare released a Web site to provide seniors with the ability to compare drug prices. The problem is a lot of our seniors do not have access to the Web site or are not proficient.

Even if seniors are willing to go through the steps, it is so confusing that our seniors cannot make a truly informed choice.

The story, unfortunately, gets worse for our seniors. They spend time and energy and brain power and choose the best card, and seniors are not even guaranteed that the company will hold up their end of the bargain. The company has no obligation to maintain its advertised price that is on that Web site or even carry those drugs for the full year. And yet our seniors, once they sign up, are stuck for that full year. Also, if they do not sign up now, then they lose their benefits. They get penalized if they do not sign up now. It is a flawed bill, and it is causing problems now.

WINNABLE WAR

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I give thanks that we serve in a Chamber where we can champion differences of opinion. Yet I rise really more in sorrow than in anger to see the headline in today's Roll Call newspaper, the senior Member from the other side of the aisle now calls our war effort in Iraq "unwinnable."

Mr. Speaker, our troops in uniform do not wear their political registrations on their sleeves. They are Americans representing all over America. I would caution those even as I embrace the right to dissent. I would caution those who choose to blame America first even in the wake of the challenges we see now with the abuses that are being found out and the people are going to be punished and punished and brought to justice from our side.

I would caution those who would paint with a broad brush every member of our military. I would caution those who would attempt now for political reasons to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. It is not becoming this Nation. It does not well serve our men and women in uniform. And even as I defend the right to dissent, I disagree in the strongest possible terms with those who attempt to politicize this conflict and, in essence, place in jeopardy our men and women in uniform.

PRIORITIES OF THE HOUSE

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, since April 1 this body has been in session 11 days. In those 11 days of legislative activity, we have named eight post offices and other Federal buildings, authorized the use of the Capitol grounds for the Soap Box Derby, congratulated the University of Connecticut, the University of Denver and Kennesaw State for their sports achievements.

Mr. Speaker, since April 1, 163 soldiers died in Iraq, bringing the total to 767.

Yesterday, the administration announced that it will keep our current troop level through 2005, and that we will need another \$25 billion on top of the \$112 billion already spent.

But while we name post offices and congratulate sports teams, our constituents are asking us the whys and the hows of Iraq. When the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services and the majority leader refuse to hold hearings, they are failing America.

As President Kennedy once said, "An error does not become a mistake until you refuse to correct it. Without debate, without criticism, no administration and no country can succeed, and no republic can survive."

Mr. Speaker, to govern is to choose. We can name post offices, or we can ask the hard questions about the direction of our country, and we might even be able to do both in this House.

WHATEVER IT TAKES

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the book on terrorism has a chapter in it called "Iraq." You cannot close the book on terrorism until you close the chapter on Iraq.

It saddens me that the Democrat leaders have now joined the ranks of the French and Spanish in calling the war in Iraq unwinnable. That is not what our troops told me when I visited them in Iraq. I asked a soldier what did he think about being in Iraq where all the terrorists are congregating from around the Middle East.

He said, this is where we ought to be. He said, this is the only place in the globe where every American carries a gun.

That war is winnable. We must support our troops. We must do like the firemen in New York City said on September 12 when they spoke to the President: do whatever it takes. We must do whatever it takes to win, and we will win.

God bless America.

MISMANAGED WAR

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House